Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the heading "THE INVENTION" before the first full paragraph on page 1.

Please add the following new heading before the second full paragraph on page 1, which starts with "It is known . . . ":

BACKGROUND

Please delete the heading "FOREGOINGS OF THE INVENTION" before the first full paragraph on page 2.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Thus it is the~~ An aim of the present invention is to provide an article for the absorption and retention of liquid fluids, as a diaper, a sanitary napkin or similar product, which is constructed with a permeable cover below which there is a nonwoven transfer layer and beneath that an absorbent core that retains the fluids. In the transfer layer there is a chiefly hydrophobic top layer and a chiefly hydrophilic bottom layer. The transfer layer presents ~~a~~ an embossed surface with channels conformed by compressed parts of the nonwoven, hereby developing peaks and valleys in transverse pattern which extend in machine direction along the transfer layer. Thanks to the minor thickness of the transfer layer in the compressed parts which are the valleys, the channels adopt hydrophilic properties, which facilitates the quick liquid transfer to the absorbent core. Thanks to the major thickness of the transfer layer in the peaks, hydrophobic properties are achieved which avoid the liquid return from the absorbent core to the permeable cover. It reduces the index of remnant humidity in the zone of skin contact even if the absorbent core is undergoing pressure.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Therefore it is the~~ It is an objective of the present invention to provide an article for the absorption and retention of liquid fluids, as e. g. a diaper, a sanitary napkin or similar product. This type of article includes a permeable cover which is in contact with the user's skin, below which there is a layer for the liquid transfer followed by an absorbent core to retain the fluids,

whereby the mentioned transfer layer is made of nonwovens, its structure comprising one top layer of fibrous material characterized by predominating hydrophobia and at least one bottom layer of predominating hydrophilic properties, united with each other in parts that form channels of distribution and transfer of liquids towards the absorbent core, forming peaks between every pair of adjacent channels where both superposed layers have a higher transversal thickness, while every channel formed between adjacent peaks define a valley where both layers have a lower transversal thickness.

Please replace the heading on page 12, line 1, with the following amended heading: ~~CLAIMS~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Please delete first full paragraph on page 12, which starts with "Having specially detailed the nature . . . "

In the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A transfer layer of liquid fluids and an absorbent article incorporating the transfer layer ~~same~~, like a diaper, a sanitary napkin or a similar product, which has a permeable cover below which there is disposed a nonwoven transfer layer ~~of~~ for liquid fluids followed beneath by an absorbent core which retains the fluids. In the transfer layer there is provided a top layer of predominating hydrophobic properties and ~~an~~ a bottom layer of predominating hydrophilic properties. The transfer layer has an embossed surface configuration, with channels formed by compressed nonwoven streaks forming transversal peaks and valleys extending in longitudinal direction along the transfer layer. The lower thickness of the transfer layer resulting from the compressed stretches which form valleys, provide the channels with a predominating hydrophilicity, which facilitates the quick liquid transfer towards the absorbent core, while the higher thickness of the transfer layer in the peaks provide it with a predominating hydrophobia, which impedes the liquid to return from the absorbent core to the permeable cover, thus reducing the index of

remnant humidity in the zone of contact with the user's skin, even if the absorbent core is submitted to pressure.